

Today, it is \$18,151,929,875,352.39. We've added \$7,525,052,826,439.31 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO PELLA CORPORATION

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Pella Corporation of Pella, Iowa. Pella Corporation has reached an important milestone this year and I join them in celebrating their 90th anniversary of providing window services to America.

Since its founding on February 6, 1925, Pella Corporation has strived to provide innovative products to meet the needs of their customers and has been determined to maintain excellence through even the toughest of times. They kept their doors open during the Great Depression, both World Wars, and the 2007–2009 recession. Even during these trying times, they have continued to care for their hardworking employees and the communities where their manufacturing facilities are located. They continue to strive for excellence in everything they do and provide a beacon of leadership not only in Pella, but in the entire state of Iowa.

It is with great honor that I recognize Pella Corporation and its hard working employees today for their hard work and perseverance. I also invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Pella Corporation on their 90th anniversary. I wish them nothing but continued success for another 90 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE MASONS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons as they celebrate their 151 years of service.

The Scottish Rite Masons is a national organization of individuals that strive to enrich the lives of their members and enhance the communities in which they live. The Scottish Rites' first Supreme Council was founded in Charleston, South Carolina in 1801, and a second Supreme Council was created in New York in 1806.

The Scottish Rite Masons' mission proclaims that they "emulate the principles of brotherly love, tolerance, charity and truth while actively embracing high social, moral and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family and country."

They also produce a strategic plan that displays five objectives, including offering Masonic knowledge, establishing a public relations department, supporting philanthropic ac-

tivities, providing a framework for effective leadership and providing financial stability for a long-term success of the Fraternity.

The Scottish Rite Masons have been instrumental in assisting youth in their academic pursuits and have made generous contributions to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Foundation, YMCA, NAACP and a myriad of other non-profit entities.

Mr. Speaker, The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons have improved the lives of many and continue to make outstanding and a wide-range of contributions to our society. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating them on this celebration.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL GASTROPARESIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Americans affected by gastroparesis, also known as delayed gastric emptying, in observance of National Gastroparesis Awareness Month in August.

Gastroparesis is a chronic medical condition where the stomach cannot empty properly in the absence of any observable blockage. Factors causing gastroparesis may include long-standing diabetes, complications from surgeries, or other illnesses, such as MS and Parkinson's disease.

Gastroparesis is relatively common, affecting an estimated 5 million Americans including thousands in my district in Milwaukee. While it can strike anyone at any age, gastroparesis is four times more likely to affect women than men.

Gastroparesis can be debilitating and sometimes life threatening. Symptoms (including nausea or vomiting, stomach fullness, inability to finish a meal, and others) usually occur during and after eating a normal sized meal and can result in problems, such as severe dehydration, difficulty managing blood glucose levels, obstruction, and malnutrition.

There is no cure for gastroparesis. Treatments like dietary measures, medications, procedures to maintain nutrition, and surgery can only reduce symptoms and related problems with the hope of maintaining quality of life.

Studies reveal a growing incidence of gastroparesis, as well as increasing rates of related hospitalizations and emergency room visits. However, as gastroparesis is a poorly understood condition, delayed diagnosis, treatment, and management of the condition are frequent challenges faced by this patient population.

Gastroparesis creates a significant burden on individuals and families. It also places a burden of direct and indirect costs on the community, economy, and U.S. healthcare system.

I applaud the efforts of nonprofit groups like the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD) from Milwaukee, as well as other patient organizations, to provide education and support that will help those affected by gastroparesis.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing August as National Gastroparesis Awareness Month in an effort to improve our

understanding and awareness of this condition, as well as support increased research for effective treatments of people affected by gastroparesis.

IN MEMORY OF GERALDINE SIMMONS RUTLEDGE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mrs. Geraldine Rutledge. Known affectionately as "Gerri" to her friends and family, she was born on April 8, 1945, and passed peacefully on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at her home surrounded by her family and friends.

Mrs. Rutledge received her formal education in the Ecorse Public School system in Ecorse, Michigan. She continued her higher education at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she earned an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. She later received a graduate degree from Eastern Michigan University. Her teaching career spanned more than thirty years in the Willow Run Community Schools, and she retired in 2000 from Henry Ford Elementary School. During her tenure, she was an active member of the Michigan Education Association, served two consecutive terms as President of the local union, and touched the lives of countless children.

On Christmas Eve, 1967, she married her college sweetheart, State Representative David Rutledge, a dear friend of mine. They are the loving parents of Felicia and Marcus and together, they supported each other's endeavors in business and public service.

As an active member of the community, Mrs. Rutledge was a faithful member of the Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. She continually worked to strengthen her relationship with God through biblical studies and church attendance. She was also an active member of the Red Hat Society, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the life and memory of Mrs. Geraldine Rutledge. She lived a life worthy of recognition. As she makes her way to her heavenly home, may her family and friends take comfort in the memory of the love she shared and the contributions she made to her community.

TRIBUTE TO CHILDREN'S CANCER CONNECTION

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Children's Cancer Connection of Des Moines, Iowa. Children's Cancer Connection was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past

75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Children's Cancer Connection has lived up to these goals and provided excellent service since 1988 to children battling childhood cancer. They offer their service at little or no cost to the families dealing with this devastating disease and do not turn away patients because of their finances.

I applaud and congratulate Children's Cancer Connection for earning this prestigious award and for their dedicated service to our community. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Children's Cancer Connection and wishing them nothing but continued success in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF CHANCELLOR WILLIAM
ENGLISH "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brit Kirwan, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland on his recent retirement. Dr. Kirwan has been a strong and inspirational leader of the university system in our great state, and we are sad to see him go.

Dr. Kirwan first left his mark on the University of Maryland when he served as an educator and instructor at our flagship campus in College Park for 25 years. When he left Maryland in 2002 to become President of the Ohio State University, he did so after having risen from an assistant professor in the mathematics department to department chair, provost, and eventually university president.

When Dr. Kirwan returned to Maryland in 2002, to become chancellor of the University System of Maryland he quickly set to work, helping to shift the focus of the system and create innovative ways to support student development. To do so he often used technology and the unique resources of the state of Maryland and national capital region to do so. Since Dr. Kirwan became chancellor, enrollment has risen 24 percent and the number of students receiving bachelor's degrees has also grown significantly, by 36 percent.

When he retired on June 30, completing a proud career of public service, Dr. Kirwan had led significant improvements to our university system that will benefit both students and faculty for decades to come. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Kirwan for his dedicated service to our students and congratulate him on an impressive career. The entire Maryland congressional delegation is proud to have worked alongside him and we wish him well in his hard earned retirement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
VIVIAN E. JONES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great sadness as I announce the passing of my longtime District Administrator, Vivian E. Jones. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her 45 years of service to me and this body, etched her name in the walls of Congress as one of its longest serving staff members.

Vivian's death on July 2, 2015, brought immense sorrow and loss to me, my staff, and to the countless constituents that counted on her assistance. The many who met and were touched by Vivian and her life's work can attest that she was equal parts strong mind and ample heart, a humble soul who cared deeply about the issues of the day and their impact on everyday people. And yet she was able to influence public decision making, develop activities of enormous impact and provide motivation, inspiration, and consolation to the younger members of my staff.

Vivian Jones goes back to my days at law-firm Weaver, Evans, Wingate & Wright. She was my administrative assistant when I first practiced law. Vivian became a part of my campaign staff in March of 1970, when I, then a young New York State Assemblyman, challenged the legendary Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. for the Congressional Seat.

Upon election to the Congress, she joined the Congressional Staff as my Executive Secretary. As a freshman Congressman, I was the beneficiary of Vivian's previous experience with secretarial and paralegal work. She immediately became responsible for my schedule and constituent services in the district office, which was all done without computers in those early days of my career in the House.

In 1975, Vivian succeeded Virginia Bell as the District Administrator (District Director). In her new role, Vivian's responsibilities expanded to the role of a Chief of Staff in the District. She managed the local district offices, directed work activities, supervised staff, and oversaw and coordinated activities in the different communities of the Congressional District. As a woman in this role in the 1970's and proceeding decades, she was quite an effective leader and powerful force in pushing my agenda forward in the district. She continued this role until January 1999, when Vivian relinquished her role, reducing her work load, and began working part-time.

Although only part-time, a loyal colleague, Vivian Jones, continued to coordinate my schedule in conjunction with the scheduler in Washington, DC. She handled all personnel matters pertaining to district staff, and prepared correspondences of varying complexity for my signature. Vivian continued to arrive at the office in the wee hours of the morning on her assigned days. As always, she remained committed to offering a sympathetic ear or to jump start a slow or reluctant bureaucracy for a constituent.

For over 50 years, Vivian's dynamic spirit and sense of purpose served me and all of her past colleagues as a motivation and driv-

ing force. She provided the people of the Congressional District incredible assistance over her many years of service to Congress and was a devoted friend to her colleagues and agency staff.

A simple speech from the floor of this sumptuous body will never ease the pain of losing such a precious soul. I can only hope that all of those whose lives were touched by her can take solace in knowing that all of her hard work, guidance, and care throughout the years exceeded all measures of selflessness and devotion to our country. As I stand here with my heart filled with grief, I honor her, not only for her courage, loyalty, faithfulness, and generosity, but also for her simply being a true embodiment of the vision and determination of women that have strengthened and transformed America. No one can ever replace such a precious human being. She is survived by her brother Neil Jones and her niece Joyce Rodriguez.

Mr. Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I would hope that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of our beloved Vivian Jones by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way. She was, in life, a shining example of all the best in our land. There is no doubt that she will always be remembered for her extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all those who were privileged to come to know her. As stated in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." In rest, may she find the peace we all seek.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE
FLAG

HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, each day, as we begin our work in Congress, we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, a flag that preserves our republic's promise of liberty and justice for all.

This is not the message of the Confederate battle flag. We all know this flag represents hate, intolerance, and bigotry. Like the Nazi flag, the Confederate flag must be retired to history books and museums. It has no place in the public square.

Unconscionably, House Republicans are defending the Confederate flag by blocking Democratic efforts to remove this rebel flag from the U.S. Capitol grounds. This comes just hours after House Republicans offered an amendment to undo Democratic amendments that bar the display of the Confederate flag in federal cemeteries, and bar the National Park Service from doing business with gift shops selling Confederate flag merchandise.

It is a cold, cruel irony that just as South Carolina votes to finally remove the Confederate flag at their statehouse, House Republicans now seek to protect this symbol of hate at the federal level.

Let us remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. Doing so will honor our country and show respect for the flag of the United States of America, which is the symbol of freedom, justice, and democracy for all.